

REMARKS

A. Status of Claims and Formal Matters

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 11, 20-22, 24-26, 28-31, and 34 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuing application. Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 12-19, 23, 27, 32, and 33 are amended. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-10, 12-19, 23, 27, 32, and 33 are under active consideration. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks made herein into the file history of the present application.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the claimed polypeptide sequence be at least 85% identical to and have the activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, support for which may be found in claim 2 as originally filed. Claim 1 is further amended to recite that the nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions with a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any part of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, with one conservative amino acid substitution, wherein the coupled polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, support for which may be found in claim 3 as originally filed and at page 4, first paragraph. Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that the specified regions of nucleotide sequence (1-102 and 319-606) refer to SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 4 is amended to recite a vector comprising a promoter operatively linked to the nucleic acid molecule, support for which may be found in claim 10 as originally filed. Claim 4 is also amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Claim 9 is amended to remove the phrase “produced by the process of claim 8 or”.

Claim 10 is amended to clarify that the promoter is not the native promoter, support for which may be found in claim 10 as originally filed.

Claim 12 is amended to include a linking step and is also amended for grammatical reasons and to remove multiple dependencies.

Claim 13 is amended for grammatical reasons to reflect dependency on claim 9.

Claim 14 is amended to recite, “wherein the polypeptide does not comprise a signal sequence,” support for which may be found at page 18, third paragraph.

Claim 15 is amended to replace the phrase “A selective binding agent or fragment thereof” with “An antibody,” support for which may be found at page 4, fifth full paragraph. Claim 15 is also amended to remove multiple dependencies.

Claim 16 is amended consistently with the amendment to claim 15 discussed above. Claim 16 is also amended for grammatical reasons and antecedent basis.

Claim 17 is amended to recite the phrase “comprises a Fab or F(ab’),” support for which may be found at page 29, second full paragraph.

Claim 18 is amended for antecedent basis.

Claim 19 is amended for antecedent basis.

Claim 23 is amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Claim 27 is amended to recite the phrase, “selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, mono-methoxy polyethylene glycol, dextran, cellulose, poly-(N-vinyl pyrrolidone) polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol homopolymers, polypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide copolymers, polyoxyethylated polyols, and polyvinyl alcohol,” support for which may be found in claim 28 as originally filed. Claim 27 is also amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claim 32 is amended to recite that the polypeptide is a fusion protein, support for which may be found in claim 32 as originally filed. Claim 32 is also amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Claim 33 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

B. Conclusion

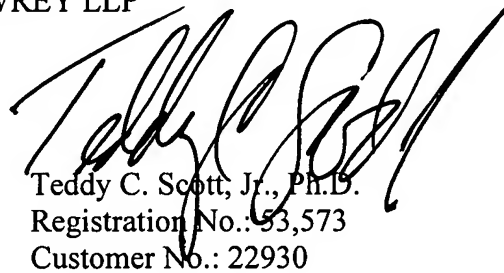
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in good and proper order for allowance and early notification to this effect is solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWREY LLP

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By:



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